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17 Aug 2006

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended) A method for controlling crown gall disease, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) introducing onto a plant species susceptible to the disease an effective amount of a biologically pure culture of ~~an  $\alpha$ -proteobacteria, wherein the  $\alpha$ -proteobacteria is a strain of Rhizobiaceae bacteria~~ Agrobacterium vitis strain F2/5 genetically engineered to express a *tx* operon, wherein the  ~~$\alpha$ -proteobacteria~~ Agrobacterium enters the stem of the plant through a wound site on the plant, and wherein the  ~~$\alpha$ -proteobacteria~~ Agrobacterium produces trifolitoxin which is capable of controlling crown gall disease on plants; and

(b) observing control of crown gall disease on the plant compared to a plant not exposed to the trifolitoxin-producing ~~bacterium~~ Agrobacterium, wherein the plant is a grape or Nicotiana plant, ~~a fruit tree or a rose plant.~~

2. -3. (canceled)

4. (currently amended) The method of Claim 3 1 wherein the ~~strain of Agrobacterium~~ bacteria is the strain Agrobacterium vitis strain F2/5 including comprises pT2TFXK, deposited as ATCC Patent Deposit Designation PTA-2356.

5. (canceled)

6. (currently amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein the  ~~$\alpha$ -proteobacteria~~ Agrobacterium is genetically engineered to express SEQ ID NO:1.

7. -9. (canceled)